

Encroachment cases of Madhya Pradesh Government

†2192. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of Madhya Pradesh Government with regard to encroachment upto the year of 1980 are pending before the Central Government since 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the sanction would be granted on the proposal of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal on 5.12.1995 for regularisation of encroachments over 1.78 lakh hectare forest land which took place between 1.1.1977 to 24.10.1980. Prior to receipt of this proposal, the Ministry had given approval in July, 1990 to another proposal of Madhya Pradesh for regularisation of encroachments over 1.03 lakh hectare forest land which took place upto 31.12.1976.

The proposal involving 1.78 lakh hectare was under continuous correspondence with the State Government for furnishing certain essential details especially the issue of raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest land diverted for regularisation of encroachments over 1.03 lakh hectare. After receipt of all the information in March, 2000 and as per recommendations of the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section 3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Ministry has decided to regularise the encroachments that took place upto 6.3.1979 in a phased manner. The State Government has been intimated this decision on 5.7.2000 and was advised to submit a revised proposal as per decided phasing. Accordingly, the State Government has submitted a revised proposal on 21.7.2000 for regularisation of

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

encroachments over about 64,000 hectare in the first phase. This proposal is now under process in the Ministry.

Expenditure on Ganga Action plan

2193. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga is still stinking despite ongoing pollution abatement work going on since 1985;

(b) the amount spent so far on Ganga Action Plan; and

(c) the action proposed to ask the State Governments to keep up the commitments under Ganga Action Plan (GAP)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I has been under implementation since 1985. The scheme has been closed on 31.3.2000. With the completion of works taken up under the first Phase, it has been possible to minimise the organic pollution reaching the Ganga river wherever the works have been made operational. However, there has been only an incidental reduction in the level of microbial pollution in the treated sewage reaching the river. This is due to the fact that technologies for reducing microbial pollution are either cost intensive or need large areas of land. Moreover, under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, only about 35% of the pollution load presently being generated from all the towns along the river has been tackled. The remaining pollution load is to be tackled under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II which is already under implementation. The Ganga Action Plan Phase-II covers pollution abatement works on Ganga and its major tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar. As a result the impact of the first phase works of the Ganga Action Plan on river water quality is not adequately visible.

(b) The amount spent on the Ganga Action Plan so far is:

Ganga Action Plan Phase-I -Rs. 451.70 crore

Ganga Action Plan Phase-II -Rs. 467.69 crore